

JSIP2026 Mock Trial Case

I. Rules of the Mock Trial (Worldwide Court System)

Note: This procedure is fiction.

Basic Description

The Worldwide Court is a judicial system designed to resolve international patent disputes in a single consolidated proceeding. Panel judges and legal counsels from member countries participate, allowing judgments across multiple jurisdictions to be rendered within a unified judicial process.

For example, in a tribunal composed of judges from Japan and South Korea, if the Japanese judge finds infringement but the South Korean judge finds non-infringement, the patentee can obtain a remedy in Japan but cannot obtain a remedy in South Korea.

Phase 1: Opening Proceedings in the Base Country (Approx. 40 minutes)

In the base country (Japan in this case), each party has approximately 15 minutes to present an overview of the case and outline their fundamental factual and legal arguments using presentation slides. In Japan, this stage is conducted in the format of "the Explanatory Session."

Phase 2: Oral Argument before the International Panel (Approx. 80 minutes)

A panel of five judges is formed, consisting of two judges from the base country (Japan, one serving as the Presiding Judge) and one judge from each of the three participating jurisdictions (South Korea, UPC, and the United States).

The legal counsels also form an international counsel team comprised of one attorney each from Japan, South Korea, the UPC, and the United States.

Each of the judges constituting the international panel will determine a conclusion of infringement or non-infringement, applying the law of their respective home jurisdictions as the governing law. The counsels on the international counsel team will argue based on the laws of their own jurisdictions to persuade their respective sitting judges.

During oral arguments, judges from the participating jurisdictions (South

Korea, UPC, and the United States) will take turns presiding over the proceedings **for 25 minutes each**, allowing both parties to present their arguments using slides. Whether a judge interrupts with questions during the presentation or asks them afterward is left to the judge's discretion. If time permits, the Presiding Judge may allow the parties to argue under Japanese law as the governing law.

Judgment

Following the conclusion of oral arguments, at the request of the Presiding Judge, each judge on the international panel will determine infringement or non-infringement under their respective home jurisdiction's law and hold up a sign indicating the judge's final ruling.

II. Overview of the Case

Pony Co. ("Pony") holds a Japanese patent ("the Patent") for an invention titled "Stand for Mobile Device" ("the Invention"). The Invention relates to a stand designed to hold a mobile device, such as a smartphone or a tablet, at an easily viewable angle on a desk or similar surface.

Donkey Co. ("Donkey") manufactures and sells a mobile device stand ("the Accused Product") in Japan, South Korea, Europe, and the United States, which is also designed to hold a mobile device at an easily viewable angle on a desk or similar surface.

Pony filed a lawsuit against Donkey seeking an injunction against the manufacture and sale of the Accused Product, as well as damages, claiming that Donkey's manufacture and sale of the Accused Product infringe the Patent.

Pony also holds corresponding patents in South Korea, the Unified Patent Court (UPC) jurisdiction, and the United States. The prosecution history for all these patents is identical to the history described below in Section V.

Note that the case is based on the premise of the following facts:

- For the person skilled in the art, substituting a metal compression coil spring with a metal leaf spring was not obvious at the time of the Patent application filing, but became obvious at the time of the sale of the Accused Product.
- The metal leaf spring used in the Accused Product possesses a high level of durability equivalent to that of a general metal compression coil spring.



III. Scope of Claims as Filed

[Claim 1]

- [A] A stand for a mobile device comprising a mounting portion on which a mobile device is placed, and a base portion to which said mounting portion is rotatably connected via a hinge shaft, the stand for a mobile device characterized by comprising:
- [B] a plurality of recesses formed in said base portion along the periphery of the hinge shaft;
- [C] a protrusion protruding from the mounting portion side and mating with said recesses at a predetermined position; and
- [D] **an elastic member** that biases said protrusion.
- [E] (Concluding clause characterizing the stand)

IV. Scope of Claims after Amendment

[Claim 1]

- [A] A stand for a mobile device comprising a mounting portion on which a mobile device is placed, and a base portion to which said mounting portion is rotatably connected via a hinge shaft, the stand for a mobile device characterized by comprising:
- [B] a plurality of recesses formed in said base portion along the periphery of the hinge shaft;
- [C] a protrusion protruding from the mounting portion side and mating with said recesses at a predetermined position; and
- [D'] **a metal compression coil spring** that biases said protrusion.
- [E] (Concluding clause characterizing the stand)

V. Prosecution History and Amendments

1. Notice of Reasons for Rejection (Examiner)

The invention disclosed in Cited Document 1 (JP 20XX-XXXXX A, *see* Section VII) features a protrusion serving as a rotation-preventing part provided on a rubber stopper (which is an elastic member). This protrusion projects from the mounting portion side and is biased against a recess formed in the base portion by rubber elasticity at a predetermined position. Therefore, the invention in Cited Document 1 can be said to possess a protrusion protruding from the mounting portion side to mate with a recess at a predetermined position, and an elastic member that biases said protrusion. As such, the claimed invention is identical to the invention disclosed in Cited Document 1 and lacks novelty.

2. Amendment to the Scope of Claims (Applicant)

The term "an elastic member" in Claim 1 was amended to "a metal compression coil spring".

3. Applicant's Arguments with Amendment (Applicant)

The rubber stopper disclosed in Cited Document 1 degrades over time and does not provide a distinct "click" sensation. In contrast, the present invention utilizes a mechanical mechanism characterized by the linear compression and restoring force of a metal compression coil spring, which constitutes a distinct technical difference.

4. Decision to Grant a Patent (Examiner)

Since no reasons for rejection were found regarding the amended application, a patent was granted.

VI. Specification of the Present Patent

Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates to a stand for a mobile device, such as a smartphone or a tablet, for holding the mobile device at an easily viewable angle on a desk or the like.

Background Art

[0002] Conventionally, mobile device stands are widely known in which a plate-like mounting portion for placing a mobile device is hinged to a base portion so that the tilt angle of the mounting portion can be adjusted.

[0003] This type of stand is equipped with an angle-holding function to maintain the mounting portion at a desired tilt angle so that the mounting portion does not topple over by the weight of a mobile device.

[0004] The angle-holding function of conventional stands generally relies on a structure that maintains the mounting portion at any angle through the frictional force between sliding parts (friction hinge) , or a structure as disclosed in Patent Document 1 (JP 20XX-XXXXX A) , where a rubber stopper made of silicone rubber or the like is interposed in the hinge connection between the mounting portion and the base portion to maintain the mounting portion at an arbitrary angle via elasticity (restoring force).

Prior Art Documents

[0005] Patent Document 1: JP 20XX-XXXXX A (Holding mechanism using a rubber stopper)

Problems to be solved

[0006] However, conventional mobile device stands that utilize frictional force to maintain the position have a problem: repeated angle adjustments wear down the sliding parts, gradually reducing the frictional force and making it impossible to hold the mounting portion at the desired angle. Similarly, conventional stands utilizing the elasticity of a rubber stopper, as disclosed in Patent Document 1, suffer from a gradual loss of elasticity due to the inherent degradation of rubber materials over time, leading to the same failure to

maintain the desired angle.

[0007] Therefore, the primary object of the present invention is to provide a stand for a mobile device that exhibits a robust and stable angle-holding function without a reduction in holding force caused by component wear or material degradation over time.

Summary of the Invention

[0008] To solve the above problems, the stand for a mobile device of the present invention comprises a mounting portion on which a mobile device is placed, and a base portion to which said mounting portion is rotatably connected via a hinge shaft, characterized by comprising a plurality of recesses formed in said base portion along the periphery of the hinge shaft, a protrusion protruding from the mounting portion side and mating with said recesses at a predetermined position, and an elastic member that biases said protrusion.

[0009] In this stand for a mobile device of the present invention, at a predetermined position, the protrusion biased by the elastic member instantly mates with the recess, providing a firm lock with a crisp, tactile "click" sensation, thereby holding the mounting portion securely at the predetermined angle.

Effects of the Invention

[0010] According to the present invention, it is provided a stand for a mobile device that exhibits a robust and stable angle-holding function without any decline in holding power due to component wear or material degradation over time.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0011]

[FIG. 1] A perspective view of a stand for a mobile device according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[FIG. 2] An exploded perspective view of the connection between the mounting portion and the base portion of the stand according to the embodiment of the present invention.

[FIG. 3] Another exploded perspective view of the connection between the

mounting portion and the base portion of the stand according to the embodiment of the present invention.

[FIG. 4] A partial cross-sectional view of the connection between the mounting portion and the base portion of the stand according to the embodiment of the present invention.

Description of Embodiments

[0012] Embodiments of the mobile device stand of the present invention will be described below in detail with reference to the drawings, using a smartphone stand as an example.

[0013] FIG. 1 illustrates one embodiment of a smartphone stand ("the stand") in use. The stand 1 of this embodiment includes a mounting portion 10 on which a smartphone is placed, and a base portion 20 to be set on a desk or the like, which are connected via a hinge. When the stand 1 is placed on a desk via the base portion 20, the mounting portion 10 stands upright from the base portion 20, and the tilt angle R of the mounting portion 10 is adjustable.

[0014] The mounting portion 10 of this embodiment has a mounting surface 11 on which the back of the smartphone rests, and a pair of mounting tabs 12, 12 on which the bottom of the smartphone rests. Cylindrical portions 10A, 10A, each having an insertion hole 13 for a hinge shaft 30, are provided at both side of the bottom of the mounting portion 10.

[0015] The mounting surface 11 is a portion that contacts and supports the back side of the smartphone, and is formed as a flat surface in the illustrated embodiment. This mounting surface 11 may be provided with an anti-slip treatment, such as pasting a sheet-like rubber anti-slip material or roughening the surface to prevent the smartphone from sliding off.

[0016] The pair of mounting tabs 12, 12 are provided to project from the mounting surface 11 at intervals in the width direction, and are arranged so that a charging cable can be connected to a charging port formed at the bottom of the smartphone while the smartphone is placed thereon.

[0017] The insertion hole 13 is provided to penetrate the cylindrical portion 10A, and the opening on the side of the mounting portion 10 is covered by a cap 14.

[0018] The base portion 20 of this embodiment has a cylindrical portion 20A in which an insertion hole 23 for passing the hinge shaft 30 is formed. A platform portion 20B extends from the cylindrical portion 20A toward the rear side to stably set the stand 1 on a table. In the stand 1 of this embodiment, the platform portion 20B is flat, but its shape is not limited thereto as long as it can be stably placed on a table.

[0019] The materials for the mounting portion 10 and the base portion 20 of this embodiment are not limited. They can be formed by molding plastic materials or the like. A weight or the like may be attached to the base portion 20 at an appropriate position to enhance stability when a smartphone is placed on the mounting surface 11.

[0020] The hinge shaft 30 of this embodiment is a metal rod. In the stand 1 of this embodiment, the cylindrical portions 10A, 10A of the mounting portion 10 and the cylindrical portion 20A of the base portion 20 are arranged alternately with their end surfaces 10a, 20a abutting against each other. They are hinged together by inserting the hinge shaft 30 into both insertion holes 13, 23. Although the hinge shaft 30 of this embodiment is separated from the mounting portion 10 and the base portion 20, it does not necessarily to be separated. For example, a hinge shaft may be formed integrally in a protruded shape so as to project from the end surface of the cylindrical portion of the mounting portion or the base portion (not illustrated).

[0021] The stand of this embodiment features a characteristic angle-holding function, particularly shown in FIGS. 2 to 4. This angle-holding function is mainly composed of a plurality of recesses 42, 42... formed in the base portion 20, a protrusion 41 arranged in the mounting portion 10, and an elastic member 43.

[0022] As shown in FIGS. 2 and 4, each recess 42 of this embodiment has a circular opening and a hemispherical bottom, and multiple recesses are formed at several locations on the end face 20a of the cylindrical portion 20A of the base portion 20 along the periphery of the hinge shaft 30. Although the illustrated embodiment shows an example where three recesses 42 are formed, the number of recesses 42 is not limited thereto.

[0023] As shown in FIGS. 2 and 4, the protrusion 41 and the elastic member 43 of this embodiment are held inside a housing portion 15 formed in the cylindrical portion 10A of the mounting portion 10. The housing portion 15 of this embodiment is a through-hole formed in the cylindrical portion 10A whose

axial direction matches that of the insertion hole 13, and one opening thereof is sealed by the cap 14. This housing portion 15 holds the protrusion 41 at a position aligned axially with the position where the recesses 42 are formed, and arranges the protrusion 41 at a position where it can mate with the recesses 42. The shape and depth of the housing portion 15 can be designed appropriately.

[0024] As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the elastic member 43 of this embodiment is a metallic compression coil spring. The compression coil spring 43 is accommodated in the housing portion 15. Being guided by the inner peripheral surface of the housing portion 15, it is compressed in the axial direction of the hinge shaft 30, thereby biasing the protrusion 41 toward the end face 20a side of the cylindrical portion 20A of the base portion 20.

[0025] As shown in FIGS. 2 to 4, the tip side of the protrusion 41 of this embodiment has a substantially hemispherical shape corresponding to the shape of the recess 42, and is accommodated in the housing portion 15 while being biased by the elastic member 43. A tip part of the protrusion 41 is arranged so as to be able to protrude from the end face 10a of the cylindrical portion 10A, and its protruding position is at an equal distance from the centerline of the hinge shaft 30 as the recesses 42. When the angle of the mounting portion 10 is adjusted, this protrusion 41 moves around the center axis of the hinge shaft 30 while being held in the housing portion 15. At positions where it does not face a recess 42, it is pressed by the end face 20a of the cylindrical portion 20A of the base portion 20, increasing the biasing force of the elastic member 43. At a predetermined position where it faces a recess 42, it mates with the recess 42. Note that the tip shape of the protrusion 41 is not limited, but by making it hemispherical as in this embodiment, the mating with the recess can be smoothly disengaged when changing the angle, making it easy to push back the elastic member and facilitate the angle-changing operation. The material of the protrusion 41 is not limited, but a hard material such as metal or plastic is preferable.

[0026] In the stand 1 of this embodiment, when the mounting portion 10 is rotated around the hinge shaft 30, the protrusion 41 faces one of the recesses 42 at a predetermined position. At that moment, due to the restoring force of the elastic member 43, the protrusion 41 instantly slips into the recess 42, and the mounting portion 10 is firmly fixed and held at that position.

[0027] As detailed above, the stand 1 of this embodiment does not depend on friction or the elasticity of rubber materials; rather, the angle of the mounting portion 10 is fixed by the engagement between the protrusion 41 and the

recess 42 via the elastic member 43, so that the holding power does not decrease over time.

Reference Signs List

[0028]

1... Smartphone stand

10... Mounting portion, 10A... Cylindrical portion on the mounting portion side, 10a... End face of the cylindrical portion on the mounting portion side

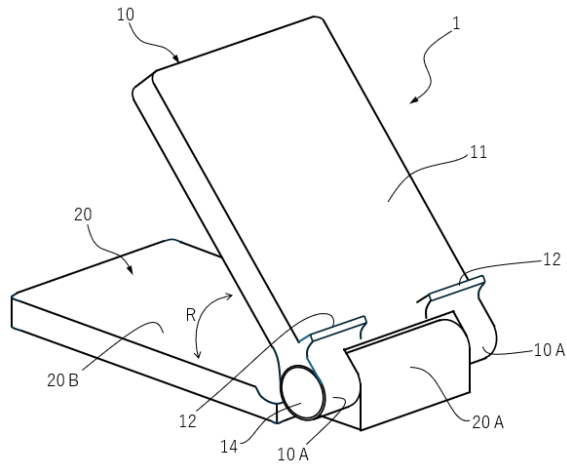
11... Mounting surface, 12... Mounting tab, 13... Insertion hole on the mounting portion side, 14... Cap, 15... Housing portion

20... Base portion, 20A... Cylindrical portion on the base portion side, 20a... End face of the cylindrical portion on the base portion side, 20B... Platform portion

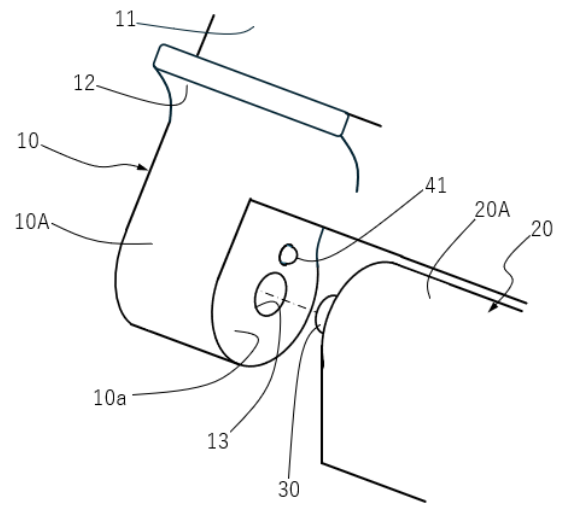
30... Hinge shaft

41... Protrusion, 42... Recess, 43... Elastic member

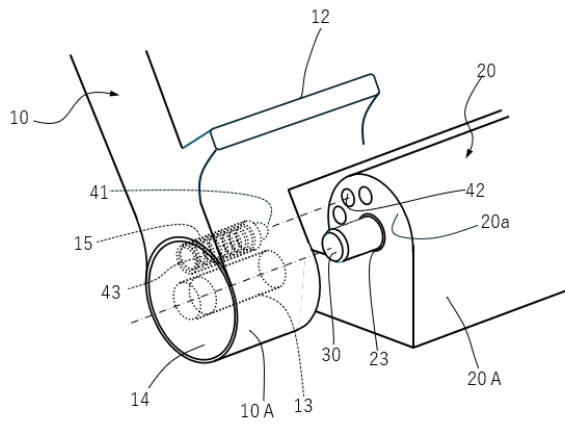
[Fig.1]



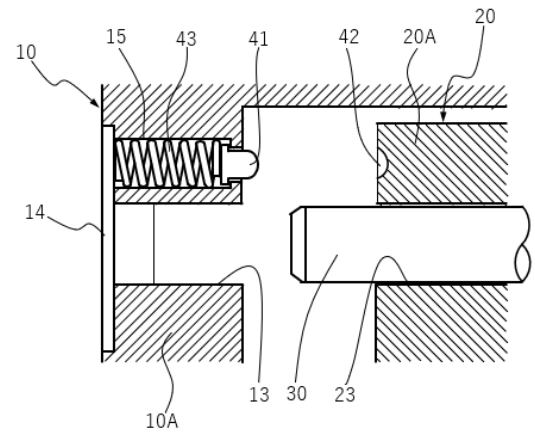
[Fig.3]



[Fig.2]



[Fig.4]



VII. Description of Cited Document 1 (Japanese Patent Application No. 20XX-XXXXX)

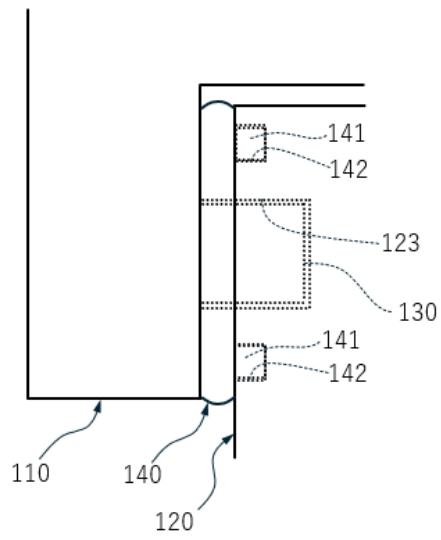
[000X] The smartphone stand of this embodiment comprises a mounting portion 110 and a base portion 120, wherein a rotation shaft 130 formed on the mounting portion 110 rotatably mates with a recess 123 formed in the base portion 120 to form a hinge connection.

[000X] In the smartphone stand of this embodiment, a rubber stopper 140 is disposed between the mounting portion 110 and the base portion 120 to hold the mounting portion 110 at an appropriate angle.

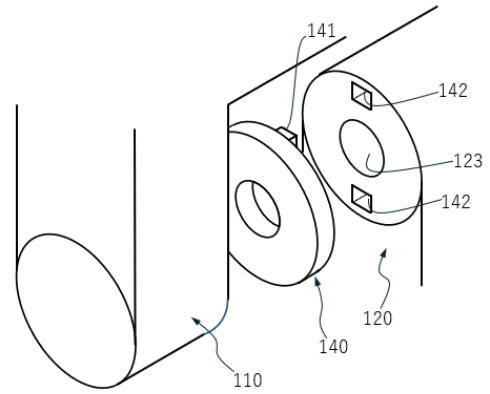
[000X] This rubber stopper 140 is formed of a material having rubber elasticity, such as silicone rubber or polyurethane rubber, and is installed in an elastically deformed state by being sandwiched and compressed between the mounting portion 110 and the base portion 120. The angle of the mounting portion 110 is held at an appropriate position by the restoring force of the rubber elasticity.

[000X] Further, this rubber stopper 140 is formed with rotation-preventing protrusions 141, 141 at multiple locations. These rotation-preventing protrusions 141, 141 fit into a plurality of rotation-preventing recesses 142, 142 formed in the base portion 120 at respective positions, and are pressed against the recesses by rubber elasticity, thereby configuring the stopper so as not to rotate together with the mounting portion 110.

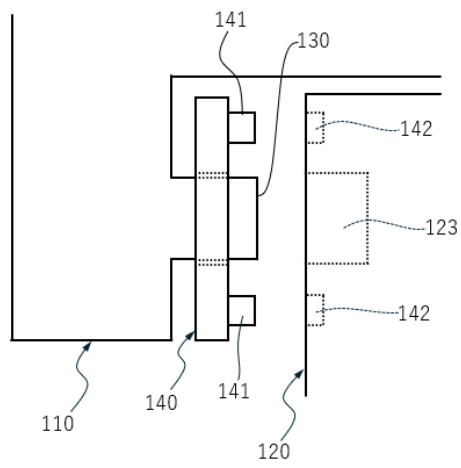
[Fig.1]



[Fig.2]



[Fig.3]



VIII. Configuration of the Accused Product

[a] The Accused Product is a stand for a mobile device comprising a mounting portion on which a mobile device is placed, and a base portion to which said mounting portion is rotatably connected via a hinge shaft, comprising:

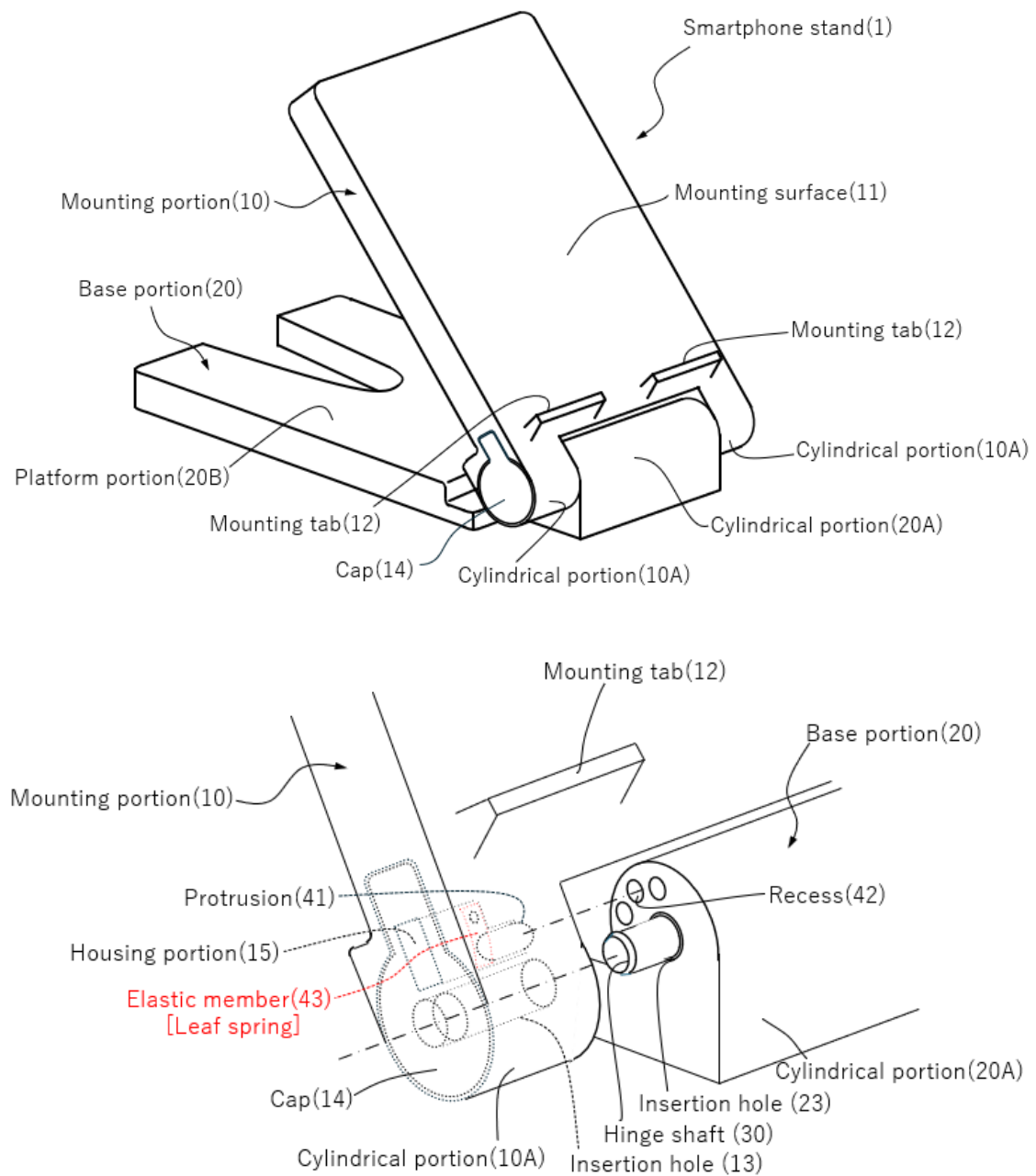
[b] a plurality of recesses formed in said base portion along the periphery of the hinge shaft;

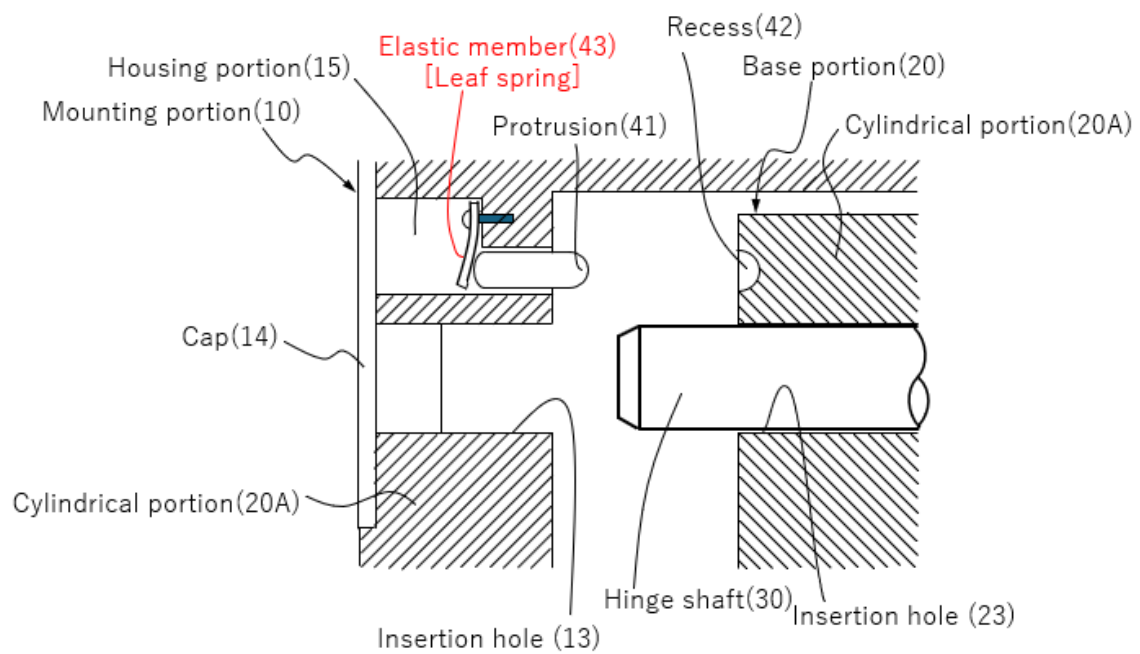
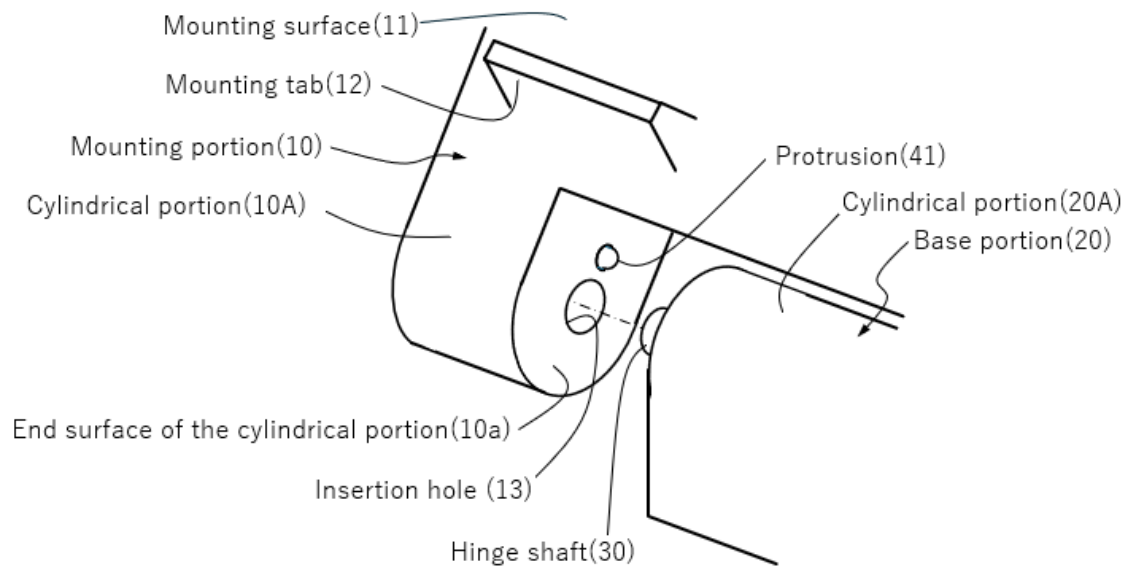
[c] a protrusion protruding from the mounting portion side and mating with said recesses at a predetermined position; and

[d] **a metal leaf spring** that biases said protrusion.

[e] (Concluding clause characterizing the stand)







IX. Basic Arguments of the Parties

1. Basic Arguments of the Plaintiff (Patentee)

The Accused Product satisfies claim elements A, B, C, and E of the Invention. Regarding claim element D', the Invention features a "metal compression coil spring," whereas the Accused Product features a "metal leaf spring," which constitutes a literal difference.

However, this difference does not relate to the essential part of the Invention, which is to bias a protrusion using the mechanical mechanism of a metal spring's repulsion, thereby achieving a distinct tactile click sensation while preventing degradation over time. The Accused Product achieves the identical function and effect as the Invention.

The amendment restricting "elastic member" to "metal compression coil spring" was intended solely to exclude the "rubber stopper" disclosed in the prior art document, and was not intended to exclude a "metal leaf spring". Therefore, the Accused Product is equivalent to the Invention and falls within its technical scope.

2. Basic Arguments of the Defendant (Accused Infringer)

The Defendant admits that the Accused Product satisfies claim elements A, B, C, and E of the Invention. Regarding claim element D', the Invention utilizes a "metal compression coil spring" that biases the protrusion by being compressed in the axial direction ([0024]). In contrast, the Accused Product utilizes a "leaf spring," which biases the protrusion via the bending stress of the plate. Thus, the mechanical mechanisms for generating the biasing force are fundamentally different. Therefore, the Accused Product differs in the essential part of the invention.

The Invention led to the grant of a patent precisely because the original claim for an "elastic member" was narrowly amended to a "metal compression coil spring." Consequently, any "elastic member" other than a "metal compression coil spring" must be deemed intentionally excluded from the technical scope of the Invention. Therefore, the Accused Product equipped with a "metal leaf spring" cannot be included in the technical scope of the Invention under the Doctrine of Equivalents.